



**Eleuterio Sánchez Rodríguez, known as El Lute, was at one time Spain's "Most Wanted" criminal. The legendary Spanish outlaw escaped several times from prison after being sentenced at age 23 to 30 years for murder.**

**While in prison, „El Lute“ learnt to read, earned a law degree, and became a writer.**

**He was pardoned and released in 1981, at the age of 39.**

When **Eleuterio Sánchez Rodríguez** was born in 1942 in Western Spain, his father was in prison. **Eleuterio never had any school education as a child.** He wasn't able to read or to write. As a young man, **he stole two hens** and was sentenced to six months in prison. Soon after his release, in 1965, he was arrested again, **accused of murder** and sentenced to death for the armed robbery of a jewellery store in Madrid, in which a security guard was killed. His sentence was changed to 30 years in prison. On the train to the prison, he managed to open his handcuffs using a wire he had hidden in his clothes. **He could jump off the train.** In prison he was allowed to weave carpets to earn a little money. He kept out a few pieces of thread every day with which he made a rope. It took him five years to finish it. During the time he was on the run, **he committed 111 robberies and 16 car thefts all over Spain.** Was El Lute a **Spanish Robin Hood**? A man who robbed the rich and helped the poor? Yes, since he was helping himself and he was poor. He became a legend owing to his daring escapes from jail. He was

listed by the police as **Spain's "most wanted" criminal.** He was a good-looking man. At the time when practically the entire police force of Spain, on foot, in cars, on motorcycles, in helicopters, were searching for him, **the women of Spain** were praying that El Lute wouldn't be caught. When back in prison he taught himself to read. He even studied foreign languages. **He went on to earn a law degree, wrote five books,** and continued his fight to clear his name. **With the end of the Franco regime,** Sánchez was pardoned. Finally, he became a lawyer.

- escape: entweichen
- law degree: Titel in Rechtskunde
- to pardon: begnadigen
- education: Bildung
- to sentence: verurteilen
- release: Entlassung
- to accuse: anklagen
- armed: bewaffnet
- robbery: Raub
- guard: Wächter
- handcuffs: Handschellen
- wire: Draht
- hidden: versteckt
- weave: weben
- carpet: Teppich
- to earn: verdienen
- thread: Garn, Faden
- rope: Seil
- to commit: begehen
- theft: Diebstahl
- to owe: verdanken
- daring: gewagt
- escape: Flucht
- jail: Gefängnis
- entire: ganz
- catch - caught: fangen
- teach - taught: lehren
- foreign: fremd
- lawyer: Jurist

**Boney M: El Lute**

This is the story of El Lute

A man who ..... to be *hunted* like a wild animal

*chased*

Because he was poor

But he ..... to *accept his fate*

*say yes to his destiny*

And today his *honor* has been restored

*reputation*

He was only .....

And he was *sentenced* to die

*judged*

For something that ..... else did

And blamed on El Lute

*made responsible*

Then they ..... it to life  
And so he could *escape*  
..... they *chased* him  
And searched for him day and night  
.....  
But the search was in vain for El Lute

*flee*  
*hunted*

He had only seen the dark side of .....  
The man they called El Lute  
And he wanted a home just like you and .....  
In a country where all would be free  
So he taught himself ... ..  
It didn't help El Lute  
He was one who had *dared* to escape .....  
They had to find El Lute

*risked*

Soon the ..... of his name  
Spread like wild fire all over the land  
With a *price* on .....  
People still gave him bread  
And they .....  
For they knew he was right  
And his fight was .....

*extended*  
*reward*

No one gave you a chance  
In the Spain of .....  
On the walls every place they had put up  
..... of El Lute  
And he *robbed* where he could just like ..... Robin Hood  
They finally caught him and  
That ..... the end  
But they caught him *in vain*  
*Cause* .... came for Spain  
(The dead of dictator Franco and the end of fascism)  
And El Lute

*stole*

*without success*  
*because*

He had only seen the ..... of life  
The man they called El Lute  
And he ..... just like you and like me  
In a country where all would be free  
And then ..... really came to his land  
And also to El Lute  
Now he walks in the light of .....  
The man they called El Lute